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Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Forests

HEIGHT-OF-THE-ROCKIES WILDERNESS AREA

MANAGEMENT PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

MANDATE

In August 1987 the British Columbia Forest Act was amended to provide for the designation of Wilderness Areas on Crown land in Provincial Forests.

Section 5.1 of the Forest Act states:

1. The Lieutenant Governor in Council may designate any Crown land in a Provincial Forest as a wilderness area, cancel such designation or amend the boundaries of a wilderness area.
2. A wilderness area shall be managed and used only for one or more of the following:
 - a) preservation of wilderness;
 - b) any use consistent with preservation of wilderness;
 - c) any purpose permitted for that wilderness area by or under the regulations.
3. No person shall carry on commercial logging in a wilderness area.
4. Unless permitted by the regulations and a permit, where a permit is required by the regulations, no person shall use or occupy land in a wilderness area in a manner that is inconsistent with preservation of wilderness.

On August 19, 1987 the Height-of-The-Rockies Wilderness Area was established as the first Provincial Forest Wilderness Area. It is the mandate of the Forest Service to produce a plan which specifies the future management and development and incorporates other agency mandates and responsibilities within the Height-of-The-Rockies Wilderness Area.

The resource information contained within this plan is based on papers written about the area prior to its formal designation, discussions with the public and data gathered on site. A questionnaire was developed for public input on preferences for future use of this Wilderness Area. The results of this survey have been incorporated into this plan and are highlighted in the Appendices. Public meetings were also held in Invermere, Cranbrook and Elkford. Subsequently, a draft plan was prepared and referred within the Ministry of Forests and Lands and to other resource agencies.

This plan incorporates public input to date, available resource data and comments from the various government agencies. It is now available for further public input prior to completion of the Management Plan for the Height-of-the-Rockies Wilderness Area.

PLAN AREA

The Height-of-the-Rockies Wilderness Area is situated along the spine of the Southern Rocky Mountains in southeastern British Columbia. It includes the upper portions of several major drainages including the Albert River, Palliser River, North Fork of the White River, Middle Fork of the White River, Forsyth and Quarrie Creeks.

Approximately 10% of its 68 000 hectares is alpine rock and snow, 35% is closed canopy forest and the remainder is transitional subalpine meadow and intermittent forest cover.

Recreation use in the Height-of-the-Rockies has been moderate. Present activities include hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, mountaineering and ski touring.

Superb alpine areas are some of the key features within the area, particularly the peaks and glaciers in the Royal Group, Italian Group, Joffre Group and British Military Group. These mountain groups are identified in the American Alpine Club and the Alpine Club of Canada Climbers Guide "Rocky Mountains of Canada South". It is an area of great relief varying in elevation from 1 300 metres above sea level in the Palliser River to the summit of Mt. Joffre at 3 449 metres. Extensive high elevation forest, alpine and valley bottom meadows combined with lakes and rivers complete this varied and spectacular region. Cultural heritage values exist in the area, possibly dating back several thousand years to when the first native people ventured into the East Kootenays from the plains. Preliminary investigations have located two archaeological sites in the Middle Fork of the White River.

Large fossil deposits discovered in the alpine areas add to this area's historic value as well.

There are fifteen access points to the Wilderness Area. Five trailheads are accessible by summer roads situated close to the Height-of-The-Rockies boundary. The Wilderness can also be entered through alpine pass trails that approach from Banff National Park, Peter Lougheed Provincial Park and Elk Lakes Recreation Area.

WILDERNESS CONCEPTS

THE PROTECTION OF WILDERNESS

The term "wilderness protection" is open to any number of interpretations. With this in mind, the Forest Service is in the process of developing wilderness regulation and policy so that there will be a Provincial framework for wilderness management. The development of the Height-of-the-Rockies plan precedes such policy and regulations. As an interim measure, this plan will use the following definition of wilderness management which was adopted by the Wilderness Advisory Committee in the report "The Wilderness Mosaic":

"An expanse of land, preferably greater than 5 000 hectares, retaining its natural character, affected mainly by the forces of nature with the imprint of modern man substantially unnoticeable."

At this time, legislation regarding Provincial Forest Wilderness Areas is limited to the Forest Act and specific Orders-in-Council designating certain wilderness areas. Full implementation of this management plan may require wilderness-related regulations.

WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

Management of the Height-of-the-Rockies Wilderness Area will be guided by the following principles:

WHAT IS WILDERNESS?

- Principle #1 - Wilderness is the remote, undeveloped extreme of the spectrum of land uses and makes up part of the mosaic of land uses of Provincial forests.
- Principle #2 - Wilderness is a distinct, composite resource with inseparable parts (recreation, wildlife, heritage and other values and their interactions).

WHY IS WILDERNESS MANAGED?

- Principle #3 - Wilderness is managed for human benefits, including the retention of naturalness and the management for recreational use and enjoyment.

HOW IS WILDERNESS MANAGED?

- Principle #4 The management of a wilderness area is guided by objectives which are established in a Wilderness Management Plan.
- Principle #5 Wilderness is managed by the minimum regulation necessary to achieve wilderness management objectives.
- Principle #6 Wilderness and adjacent lands are managed in relation to one another.
- Principle #7 Wilderness management strives to minimize the environmental and social impacts of human use.
- Principle #8 Wilderness preservation requires the management of human use, including the application of environmental and social carrying capacities.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum is a recreation classification system used by the B.C. Forest Service for recreation management planning. It provides for a continuum of six classes of experience opportunities ranging from Urban to Primitive based on three criteria: remoteness, area size and evidence of humans. The six classes are Primitive Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized, Roaded Resource Land, Rural and Urban.

The only Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (R.O.S.) classes that meet the previously stated definition of wilderness are Primitive and Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized. All management activities in the Height-of-The-Rockies will be directed towards achieving or maintaining a Primitive or Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized setting.

The general criteria for the these two Recreation Opportunity Spectrum settings are:

1. Primitive: characterized by essentially unmodified natural environments of a large size. Interaction between users is very low and evidence of other users is minimal. The area is managed to be essentially free from evidence of human-induced restrictions and controls. Evidence of trails is acceptable, but should not exceed the minimum standards required. Motorized use within the area is not permitted.
2. Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized: characterized by a predominantly natural or natural appearing environment of a moderate to large size. Interaction between users is low, but there is often evidence of other recreation users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Structures are rare and isolated. Motorized use is not permitted.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Recreation Management Goals

1. The Forest Service will manage the Height-of-The-Rockies for target Recreation Opportunity Spectrum settings of Primitive and Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized in accordance with the wilderness definition and principles. Wilderness recreation is regarded as one extreme of the recreation opportunity spectrum. Although perceptions of wilderness vary, the Primitive and Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Recreation Opportunity Spectrum settings meet or exceed most people's requirements for a wilderness experience. Key components of these settings for recreation include natural areas, solitude, wildlife, aesthetically pleasing settings, high quality natural features and varied physically challenging recreational opportunities.
2. Management of the Wilderness Area will strive towards providing, maintaining and enhancing the basic biological and social settings required for a wilderness experience, and will endeavor to maximize recreation opportunities within that context.
3. The level of management in the Wilderness Area will be targeted towards minimal impact on the wilderness experience. The impact of excessive management control has the potential to negatively affect natural settings as can inappropriate or excessive use of the area. Excessive signing, over development, restrictive regulations, and a continual presence of staff do not conform to wilderness principles.
4. A five year Recreation Management Plan has been developed for the Height-of-The-Rockies Wilderness Area. This plan will be subject to review, update and revision annually. A synopsis of the plan is contained in the appendices of this plan.
5. Further investigation is required into the location of recreation unit boundaries. Unit boundaries are to be refined during 1989 so that activity restrictions are reasonable, legitimate, and defensible.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS, DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION

ACCESS

Access is a critical aspect of wilderness management, for it defines the types, distribution and amount of use. Types of access that are compatible with wilderness values and the regulation of access will be considered in this plan.

Commercial heli-skiing and heli-hiking are not considered appropriate activities within the Height-of-The-Rockies Wilderness Area. Ample opportunities for these activities are available in other nearby areas such as the Bobbie Burns and Bugaboo areas as well as other commercial operations elsewhere in the Purcell and Monashee Mountains. Aircraft may also be utilized for accessing skiing and hiking areas throughout the public domain excepting parks and ecological reserves. It is considered appropriate that the Height-of-The Rockies-Wilderness Area be managed for an all-season, non-motorized wilderness experience.

Air access is difficult to define in terms of recreation opportunity spectrum classes. There is little doubt that unrestricted air access throughout this Wilderness Area will be detrimental to the wilderness setting because of the probability of disturbance to both people and wildlife, however carefully selected, highly restricted air access may broaden recreational opportunities with minimal impact on the wilderness setting.

Float planes have traditionally used Connor Lakes. Aircraft landing, taxiing and taking off are a disturbance which is not compatible with the management objectives for this Wilderness Area. Float planes will be discouraged by means of a public information brochure. If this approach fails to meet the objective then restrictive regulation may be considered.

Modes of transportation that do not conform to the wilderness setting within the Height-of-The-Rockies will be excluded from the area. For example, motorized ground transport will not be permitted.

A significant access issue is whether highly controlled helicopter access for dropping people and supplies is acceptable. This may be permitted by identifying specific locations for off loading and loading of passengers. Regulations are required to restrict numbers of drops, types of drops, times of landings and flight corridors. The actual recreation activities would not be motorized, but an opportunity would be provided for restricted access into isolated areas for activities such as climbing. Disturbance would be minimal and other users would be aware of the flight regulations so that they could plan trips accordingly. Care must be taken to avoid sensitive areas and establish air access routes so that wildlife disturbance will be minimized.

Information regarding air corridors and air travel within this wilderness area would be highlighted in public information brochures.

Access management is the primary method to control use in a Wilderness Area. Both the biological and social carrying capacities can be exceeded if there are too many users, or if use is concentrated in specific areas. The difficulty is in determining what constitutes too much use. Environmental degradation can be measured relatively easily but the social component is elusive. According to the Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized classification, "interaction between users is low," but "low" remains an undefined term.

Registration boxes and user surveys at entrance points to the wilderness area will be installed to determine the users assessment of the social setting. If use is deemed too high in certain areas then access will be controlled or dispersed. User access can be reduced by further limiting physical access or altering facilities to disperse use. The least

preferential method to control use is the permit system. Permits require more time and staff, are difficult to administer, and may not be well received by users accustomed to unlimited freedom. It is, however, a method to control access when all else fails.

Activities

Most ground based non-mechanized activities are compatible with wilderness. Hiking, climbing, camping, skiing, caving, etc. are not controversial although user ethics must be considered. An emphasis on minimal disturbance is critical. For example camping is compatible, but not if it involves substantial tree cutting or scarring, clearing, garbage accumulation or campsite crowding.

A public information brochure will highlight activities which deter from the wilderness experience, either short-term nuisance or long-term degradation.

Three activities that can lead to greater impacts, are horseback riding, mountain biking and hunting. Horsepacking is an established tradition in the Height-of-The-Rockies. While it is a compatible activity, there is no doubt that horses can negatively impact trails, camps and range land indicating that controls and regulations are required. Considering that there can be negative impacts from horse use, some areas will be zoned for non-equestrian activities. Separate trails for horses and foot travellers may be an option in some locations.

Mountain biking, although a relatively new activity, can impact sensitive areas. Non motorized bikes will be restricted to major trails and will be kept out of sensitive areas.

Hunting is the most popular traditional activity in the Height-of-The-Rockies Wilderness Area. There is a diverse and abundant wildlife population throughout the area.

Guide outfitters operate in the northern and southern portions of the wilderness area but do not operate in the Middle Fork of the White River. Resident hunters have use of the entire area. The objective of the wildlife program is to maintain healthy wildlife populations. Wildlife preserves, where hunting is prohibited or substantially limited are already found in the National and Provincial Parks of the region.

Most hunting occurs in the fall, overlapping little with summer and winter periods, when most other recreation activities take place. Hunting access will be by horseback, mountain bike or on foot, all of which are compatible with wilderness values. Back country hunting experiences are in high demand, therefore, hunting will probably continue to be one of the most popular recreational activities in the Wilderness Area.

Little is known about winter recreation activities in the Height-of-The-Rockies. The potential appears limited due to terrain and snow conditions. There is some ski-touring potential in the valley bottoms and in the southeast corner of the area. Snowmobiling and other mechanized winter activities do not have a history of use in the Wilderness Area and will not be permitted in the Height-of-The-Rockies Wilderness Area.

Facilities

Facilities are manmade improvements and are therefore deemed to be incompatible with the Primitive classified portions of the Wilderness Area. Primitive areas will be left in a natural state.

The Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized classification is not as limiting as the Primitive classification. It recognizes that at entrance points, along main corridors and in popular areas higher use levels will bring about environmental changes that may require placement of facilities.

The management goal is to minimize environmental impacts such as compaction or erosion by improving or re-routing trails. Areas that have been degraded will be rehabilitated to more natural conditions. Primitive campsites with tent pads, fire rings and possibly corrals will be developed in high use or sensitive locations to prevent unacceptable environmental damage.

There are a few cabins in the Height-of-the-Rockies that pre-date the wilderness designation. The tenures for the 6 guide-outfitters cabins will be recognized as "Existing Non-Confirming". Existing cabins may be relocated to less sensitive locations if deemed necessary by the Forest Service and will be subject to sanitary and aesthetic standards in order to minimize their impact. Prior to any reconstruction or replacement of a cabin a review of the need for the cabin will be undertaken by the Forest Service.

Visual Values

Outstanding scenery occurs at the high elevation passes such as North Kananaskis and Palliser Passes and at many of the lakes, in particular Ralph, Connor, (Misty and Reflection) and Limestone Lakes. Great visual variety occurs sequentially on the LeRoy Creek trail, the upper end of the Palliser trail and likely occurs on the west branch of the upper Palliser river.

Almost all views incorporating the Royal group or portions thereof tend to be spectacular. Mt. King George, central to the group and one of the highest peaks in the area at 3 391 metres (11,125 feet) is the visible "crown" of the wilderness from numerous viewing locations.

Viewing at lower elevations and away from the lakes tends to be restricted to the foreground because of continuous forest with the trails being the key feature noticed most often. Any openings allowing views outside the immediate forest are welcome, as well as interesting features beside the trail such as erratics, creeks and distinct vegetation type changes.

Trails, campsites and any bridges that are to be installed will be designed and located to maintain or enhance landscape values, as they invariably form part of the landscape viewed. Bridges, for example, become landscape features in themselves. Wilderness recreation experiences are likely adversely affected when facilities do not fit their settings.

A general guideline will be to locate trails, campsites and cabins where they will not infringe on panoramic views. For example, a set of switchbacks at the head of a valley should remain unseen from valley bottoms. Cabins and campsites should not be visible from surrounding viewpoints. The cabin at Queen Mary Lake for example, should be moved to a less prominent location unseen from elsewhere on the lake. Improvements, such as site furniture or bridges, should be of a rustic nature to blend with their natural surroundings. Forest Service standard outhouses should be replaced with a lower profile facility that blends better and is in keeping with the idea of wilderness.

The Height-of-The-Rockies Wilderness shares most of its eastern boundary with other designated Recreation areas. Landscape alternation should therefore not occur there. Along its western border, no land use incompatibilities were seen from established or proposed trails or campsites, with the exception of logging at Maiyuk Creek. This may have significant landscape impact if visible from a proposed trail location. Visual quality objectives will be set for operable forest lands visible from trails and campsites within the Wilderness. Specifically, this will be done for Maiyuk Creek, Middle Fork of the White River from Maiyuk Creek north to the Wilderness boundary, the first seven kilometres of the Palliser River south of the Wilderness boundary and the upper four kilometres of the North White River.

The redesigning of proposed logging blocks near Seeta Creek may be necessary to blend in more with the surrounding landscape.

Public Information

The intent of the public information program is to provide information on the Height-of-the-Rockies without generating excessive levels of use. For that reason the information program will be designed to respond to inquiries rather than promote the area.

A brochure will be produced to introduce the user to major trail routes, camping areas and recreation features. It will also promote the concept of wilderness ethics as it relates to user compatibility and environmental impacts.

Signing will be kept to a minimum and generally located only at major access points.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

ACCESS

1. No motorized ground access summer or winter.
2. Helicopter access only to designated locations, at designated times for drop off and pick up only.
3. Helicopter operators will advise the Forest Service of numbers of trips, times of trips, group size and group activity so that use can be monitored.
4. Helicopter access by Government agencies for fieldwork by Forest Service Permit only. Agencies will endeavour to minimize the use of aircraft.
5. Helicopters may be used for emergency evacuations.
6. Except for guidelines 2, 4 and 5 aircraft landings are prohibited.
7. Parking and foot access points will be established at designated locations and may be relocated to control access.
8. Access management may be amended at the discretion of the District Manager.

ACTIVITIES

1. Mountain biking and horse packing only where zoned.
2. Non-mechanized activities including, but not limited to, hiking, camping, skiing, climbing, caving, fishing and hunting (as per Fish and Wildlife regulations).

COMMERCIAL RECREATION

1. There are two existing guide outfitting territories in the Wilderness Area. No further territories or expansion of territories.
2. Commercial activities are permissible on the same basis as public activities. Commercial operators are to apprise the Forest Service of their activities and report use figures.

If commercial use of the wilderness results in unacceptable impacts on the area, the problem will be addressed jointly by the appropriate agencies.

FACILITIES

1. Existing tenured guide outfitter cabins and the Connor Lake Forest Service cabin will be retained as existing non-conforming facilities. Upgrading and/or relocation shall be carried out according to Forest Service standards for aesthetics, design and environmental compatibility. The presence of existing structures may be reassessed when they are sold or subject to renewal.
2. Existing cabins may require relocation to more discrete locations.
3. Primitive campsites with tent pads, fire rings and/or toilets, corrals, tie racks and hanging racks will be developed in appropriate Recreation Management classes where required.
4. Trails will be maintained according to the standards set out in the recreation management classes. Trails maintained by Guide outfitters will be according to Forest Service standards.

5. Information boards and registration stations will be installed at all major access points.
6. Recreation sites, parking areas, corrals, stock loading ramps and day use areas will be constructed where required at major access points.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT CLASSES

A stratification system of four recreation management classes has been developed for the Height-of-the-Rockies. Each class specifies the desired Recreation Opportunity Spectrum setting and general management constraints. The Height-of-the-Rockies has been zoned according to the following classes:

CLASS I

- Primitive non-motorized setting
- Very remote chance of human encounters
- No trails other than game trails
- Dispersed camping - no identified sites
- No horse access allowed
- No helicopter access allowed
- No campfires

CLASS II

- Primitive non-motorized setting
- Little chance of human encounters
- Existing trails maintained to minimum foot travel standard, no new trails constructed
- Horse access may be allowed
- Restricted helicopter landings in some cases
- Dispersed camping - identified sites, no toilets
- Fire pit provided where dead wood is abundant

CLASS III

- Semi-primitive non-motorized setting
- Occasional group encounters
- Trail network established and maintained to moderate hiking standards, minimum horse standard
- Horse access allowed
- No picketing or corralling of horses
- No aircraft landings
- Camping restricted to small developed sites with a maximum of 2 pads hardened to frequent use.
- Dry toilets provided
- Fire pit provided

CLASS IV

- Semi-primitive non-motorized setting
- Possibility of frequent encounters
- Trail network established and maintained to a good hiking standard, moderate horse standard
- Horse access allowed
- No aircraft landings
- Camping restricted to medium developed sites with a maximum of 6 pads hardened to frequent use
- Fire ring provided
- Mandatory use of corrals provided
- Dry toilets provided

UNIT PRESCRIPTIONS

On the attached map the Height-of-the-Rockies has been zoned according to Management Class and each polygon has been assigned a unit number. Management prescriptions have been developed for each management unit in accordance with its management class. Subsequent to a thorough review, during the first year of this plan, zone boundaries will be amended to better reflect management criteria for protecting and using the Wilderness Area.

UNIT	CLASS	PRESCRIPTIONS
1	I	Inventory trails if any.
2	I	Inventory features.
3	II	Maintain trail to Ralph Lake and Upper Shag Creek Identify sites. No horses.
4	III	Rebuild shelter to F.S. standards, maintain firewood provided.
5	I	Inventory Features
6	III	Segregate horse trail from hiking trail with #7.
7	III	See #6. Negotiate relocation and replacement of Queen Mary Cabin for guide outfitter/public use. Identify sites.
8	I	Inventory features, provide firewood.
9	III	Erect boundary post at N. Kananaskis Pass. Maintain trail, establish campsite.
10	III	Erect boundary post at S. Kananaskis Pass. Maintain trail, establish sites.
11	II	Establish helipad. Identify sites. Inventory features.
12	I	Inventory features.
13	I	Inventory features.
14	II	Maintain trail. Identify sites, no fires.
15	III	Maintain/relocate trail, establish sites.
16	II	Maintain trail, identify site, no fires.
17	II	Maintain trail, identify sites.

18	I	Inventory features.
19	II	Maintain trail, identify sites.
20	I	Inventory features.
21	III	Upgrade trail to class III standard.
22	I	Inventory features.
23	I	Inventory features.
24	I	Inventory features.
25	II	Maintain trail, identify sites.
26	III	Upgrade trail to class III standards, remove garbage, replace footbridge across Joffre Creek, develop 3 sites, 2 with corrals.
27	I	Inventory features.
28	II	Maintain trail, identify sites, no horses.
29	I	Inventory features.
30	II	Maintain trail, identify sites, establish helipad.
31	I	Inventory features.
32	I	Inventory features.
33	II	Maintain trails, identify sites, establish helipad. Inventory features, no fires.
34	I	Inventory features.
35	II	Maintain trail, identify sites.
36	I	Inventory features.
37	II	Maintain trail, inventory features.
38	I	Inventory features.
39	II	Maintain trails, identify sites, no fires, no horses.
40	III	Upgrade trail to class III standard.
41	I	Inventory features.
42	II	Maintain trail, identify sites, no fires.
43	III	Maintain trail, establish campsite.
44	II	Maintain trail, identify site, locate route.
45	II	Locate Route, identify sites, maintain trail.
46	I	Inventory features.
47	III	Maintain trail, establish campsite.
48	II	Maintain trail.
49	II	Maintain trail, identify sites, no horses.

50	IV	Maintain trail, establish campsite with facilities.
51	IV	Maintain trail, establish campsite with facilities. Construct corral, rehabilitate range values.
52	III	Establish trail to class III standard.
53	I	Inventory features.
54	III	Maintain trail after adjacent logging complete.
55	I	Inventory features.
56	IV	Establish campsite, remove garbage, maintain trail. Consider corral.
57	I	Inventory features.
58	I	Inventory features.
59	IV	Maintain trail, relocate section on west end.
60	I	Inventory features.
61	II	Maintain trail, identify sites, no horses.
62	III	Maintain trails, establish site if required.
63	IV	Maintain cabin. Establish campsite with facilities. Construct corral. Maintain campsite at south end of lake.
64	III	Maintain trails. Identify/establish sites in side drainages.
65	II	Maintain trails, identify sites.
66	I	Inventory features.
67	III	Maintain trails, establish sites in side drainages.
68	II	Maintain trails, establish sites.
69	I	Inventory features.
70	III	Maintain trail, establish site near top end.
71	III	Reroute trail away from cabin, construct corrals, rehabilitate range values.
72	I	Inventory features, remove trespass cabin in conjunction with Lands Branch, rehabilitate range values.
73	IV	Establish campsite with facilities, construct corral, remove garbage, maintain trail.
74	II	Maintain trail, identify sites, no horses.

PERIPHERAL PRESCRIPTIONS

Forsyth/Quarrie

1. Request that Fish and Wildlife Branch move the Forsyth Creek road closure from the Elk River Road west along Forsyth Creek to the junction with Quarrie Creek.
2. Install directional post at the Elk/Forsyth Road junction.
3. Develop a parking area, day use area, corral and horse loading ramp at the end of the Forsyth Creek road.
4. Brush out the trail from the parking lot up Quarrie Creek to the guide-outfitter's camp.

Middle Fork of the White River

1. Establish a recreation site with a corral at the Kotsats Creek hunter access closure.
2. Establish a recreation site with a corral near the Middle Fork / Maiyuk Creek junction.

Joffre

1. Establish a recreation site, corral, trailhead sign and user registration box at the trailhead to cover both the Joffre and Palliser entrances.

FOREST PROTECTION

FIRE MANAGEMENT GOALS

1. Fires detected within the Height-of-The-Rockies Wilderness Area will be subjected to aggressive initial attack during moderate, high, and extreme danger classes. This is an interim measure until a detailed Fire Management Plan is developed and ready for implementation in 1990. The fire attack strategy will take into account the wilderness values and wilderness management goals through the modification of control tactics including the avoidance of heavy equipment on the fireline. Heavy equipment may only be considered in a case of an extremely critical situation where a fire threatens to burn well beyond the Wilderness boundaries and the District Manager orders the use of heavy equipment.
2. The primary fire management strategy for the Wilderness will work towards the creation of a mosaic of vegetative species, age classes and seral stages throughout the area. The rationale for this goal is to reduce the likelihood of extensive forest fires and major insect or disease outbreaks, both of which tend to occur in extensive, homogeneous, mature forests.
3. A reasonable assumption is that visitor frequency to this Wilderness area will increase significantly over the next decade. Man-caused fires in this area could be more of a problem than in the past. An aggressive fire prevention campaign coupled with a fuel reduction program along trails and around campsites should reduce the occurrence of man-caused fires. The installation of fire rings at the most heavily used campsites should reduce the risk as well. The Height-of-The-Rockies will be identified as one or more sub-units of the Invermere Forest District (N-3) restriction zone so that restriction orders may be implemented with specific consideration of the unique fire attack problems the area poses.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

FIRE MANAGEMENT CONCERNS, DISCUSSION, AND DECISION

Fire Ecology

Most of the forested area within the Height-of-the-Rockies is classified as the Engelmann Spruce - Subalpine Fir (ESSF) biogeoclimatic zone. Wildfire plays a significant role with respect to species composition, vegetational states and age classes in this zone.

Lodgepole pine is the most common pioneer species in the ESSF zone. After a fire, the fast growing pine generally establishes itself to produce a nearly pure pine stand. The slower growing spruce and fir are shade tolerant and tend to remain in the pine understory until circumstances allow them to take over. Pine seedlings are not shade tolerant so they are not normally part of the understory.

A pure pine stand in the ESSF zone will endure until:

1. It is killed by pathogens and the spruce and fir take over.
2. Mountain pine beetle kills pockets of pine which may be replaced by spruce and fir.
3. Ground fire scars and kills scattered stems allowing spruce and fir to release into the openings.
4. A large fire occurs and the whole stand is replaced again by pine.
5. A mixture of the above.

Throughout the forest succession there tends to be an accumulation of ground fuels which increases the risk of large fires. Dead pine adds to the fuel buildup and as spruce and fir take over, higher levels of shade and humidity promotes shrub growth which further increases fuel loading.

Lightning is the natural ignition source and is random in pattern. It can occur during both low and high fire hazard seasons and can be accompanied with a lot of rain or none at all. Under natural conditions in the ESSF zone the vegetative mixes, fuel loads, fire hazards and lightning conditions result in a mixture of large and small wildfires that provide for a variety of age classes, species mixes and vegetational stages.

Mans Interaction

For the past fifty years man has deliberately tried to exclude fire to protect commercial forest values. This has been done through fire prevention programs, early fire detection, aggressive initial attack and modern fire suppression techniques.

Fire control efforts are not a hundred percent effective on all fires. Smaller fires in lower hazard periods are easier to control than larger ones. By extinguishing most of the potentially small or medium sized fires, ground fuels build up and a pattern of larger fires develops. In commercial forests this trend is balanced by harvesting mature wood. Harvesting takes the place of smaller fires and provides both access and fire breaks to increase the fire control success rate.

In wilderness areas such as the Height-of-the-Rockies fire suppression has been in place less than fifty years with nothing to balance the trend towards ground fuel buildups and an increasing potential for larger fires. This trend will continue until fire management techniques specific to wilderness conditions are implemented.

Reintroduction of Fire

In the Height-of-the-Rockies there are four major drainages. Forsyth-Quarrie was completely burnt in the 1930's and is progressing

towards another stand replacement fire some 50-100 years from now under the present fire exclusion policy. The Middle Fork of the White and Joffre creek are comprised of overmature unbroken forest where there is a high probability of a total stand replacement fire should one begin during extreme hazard.

In the fourth major drainage, the Palliser, the forest cover is frequently bisected by slide paths and rock faces that lessen the chance of a large fast moving fire. The slides and rock faces provide some natural fire breaks for suppression activities.

The primary fire management strategy for the Height-of-the-Rockies is to work towards establishing a mosaic of age classes and seral stages throughout the wilderness area that will reduce the possibility of large fires and/or forest pest epidemics. The cycle of large fires is self perpetuating and difficult to break. Forest managers must stray from the status quo of fire exclusion for the long term benefits of a healthy, safe and varied forest which, when established, may afford the Manager a better opportunity to allow fire to plan a more natural role.

Some methods that may be used to achieve the desired vegetational mosaic in the Height-of-the-Rockies include:

1. Fire inclusion through no-action. Fires would only be allowed to let burn if they met the criteria outlined in the HOTR Fire Management Plan and an Uncontrolled Fire Attack Plan. Uncontrolled Fire Attack Plan is a plan developed for each fire that is not brought under control within the first 24 hours. It forms the basis of further suppression action.
2. Prescribed burning. The use of prescribed fire could include prescribed stand replacement fires with the intent of establishing younger stands, underburning to create small openings in the forest and to maintain meadows and the burning of slide paths to establish fire barriers.

3. Fire Exclusion - Fire may be excluded from some areas or under certain conditions as outlined in the Fire Management Plan. Fire would be excluded from non-fire dependent ecosystems and during fire hazard conditions when rate of fire spread would be unacceptable or threaten areas outside the wilderness area, areas of critical value or improvements inside the wilderness area.
4. Aggressive modified attack* on all fires during high hazard periods and aggressive initial attack during extreme hazard periods on an interim basis until a heterogenous mosaic of fuel types is achieved.

Fire Management Units (F.M.U.)

Fire Management Units are a stratified inventory of fire related conditions that can be used by fire control officers for making fire response decisions. There are several criteria which control the ease of fire ignition, rate of spread, fire intensity, difficulty of control and potential fire size. They include: aspect, slope, position on slope, plant association, relative ground fuel loading, existence of ladder fuels and the size of a homogeneous unit. These criteria can be further augmented by qualifiers such as proximity to values at risk, neighbouring F.M.U. risk factors, prevailing winds, proximity to natural breaks and proximity to other administrative land bases.

The above information may be used to stratify Fire Management Units. A matrix of fire responses can then be developed based on management objectives, fire management units and weather conditions. Fire management units and fire management prescriptions will be developed and incorporated into the Fire Management Plan.

*In keeping with the basic principles of wilderness management, fire control decisions must emphasize minimum physical disturbance. The use of heavy equipment should only be considered under extenuating circumstances such as an impending major escape out of the wilderness area.

FOREST PROTECTION

PEST MANAGEMENT GOALS

1. The Fire Management goal which provides for the manipulation of species composition, age class structures and seral stages of forests in the Wilderness Area will assist in the prevention and control of forest pests, especially bark beetles. If extensive, homogeneous, mature stands of lodgepole pine are broken into smaller units through the use of prescribed fire, particularly if alternate species can be established, there will be a better control opportunity of bark beetle populations.
2. The Wilderness Area will continue to be monitored for insects and diseases, especially the Mountain Pine Beetle. This is in recognition of the Inter-Agency Agreement on Mountain Pine Beetle and of the fact that an epidemic population level of bark beetles would threaten commercially available stands outside of the Height-of-The-Rockies Wilderness Area.
3. Control methods, other than commercial logging, will continue to be employed wherever required.
4. Forest diseases generally do not have the capability for rapid spread as do insects, therefore, the management goal will be to identify and monitor forest diseases.
5. Research of forest insects and diseases will be encouraged in the Wilderness Area. Valuable knowledge may be gained through research of forest sites subject to management for an unaltered natural state.

PEST MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS, DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION

History

Prior to the Wilderness designation much of the area was subject to an extensive insect and disease survey program. Ground surveys have confirmed that Mountain Pine Beetle (Dendroctonus ponderosae Hopk.) is currently the only forest pest which poses a serious threat to timber in the Height-of-the-Rockies.

An aggressive control program of "Cut and Burn" has been conducted over the last decade to slow the advance of the Mountain Pine Beetle. The vigour of the beetle has recently declined, perhaps as a result of the control activities and the weather patterns, however recent mild winters and dry summers, are expected to increase populations.

Mountain Pine Beetle Management

Mountain Pine Beetle has an affinity for mature pine so the greater the predominance of mature pure and mixed pine, the greater the probability of epidemic beetle activity, therefore, the approach to Mountain Pine Beetle control will parallel that of fire control. The objective will be to attain a mosaic of units which will allow insects to occur naturally at endemic proportions while reducing the risk of major infestations.

In a forest of mixed species and age classes the lack of a large highly susceptible host population should allow for the natural removal of a small percentage of the stand promoting a succession not preferred by the Mountain Pine Beetle. It would then be possible to accept the inevitability of insect infestations, appreciate their role in the ecosystem and set target levels of acceptable insect activity.

Since optimum conditions will not always prevail, modest outbreaks should be anticipated. Major beetle infestations threatening areas adjacent to the Height-of-the-Rockies may require more aggressive control actions.

Detection

Annual aerial beetle surveys will continue in the Wilderness Area and augmented by ground surveys when populations increase to the point that adjacent lands may be threatened.

Control Methods

Although theoretically possible, the use of prescribed, controlled insect infestations to break up large homogeneous mature pine forests is not presently feasible. Our abilities to use prescribed fire as a vegetation management tool are far better developed. When an outbreak occurs in a desirable area which appears easily contained, controlled and is expected to leave beneficial effects, it may be allowed to occur under close observation. The risk of large infestations is decreased through the judicious use of prescribed fire, or other appropriate control methods.

Interim routine control measures may have to be considered similar to initial attack on wildfires until the mosaic of species and age class diversity is achieved.

FOREST PROTECTION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Fire Attack Strategies

1. In keeping with the basic principles of wilderness management, fire control tactics must emphasize minimum physical disturbance. The use of heavy equipment should only be considered under extenuating circumstances such as an impending major escape out of the wilderness area.
2. The Fire Management Plan for the Height-of-the-Rockies Wilderness Area will provide a guideline for fire attack strategies and tactics.
3. Five fire response decisions will be employed:
 - A. No Action - Subject to the Fire Management Plan and an Uncontrolled Fire Attack Plan, the District Manager may authorize no action on a fire. The fire must be closely monitored and a daily assessment of spread potential developed. Standby suppression resources will be preorganized in the event that a decision to attack the fire be made.
 - B. Delayed Attack - For fires where there is no threat of rapid expansion and subject to an Uncontrolled Fire Attack Plan, suppression efforts may be delayed to let small fires run their course or to let the fire achieve vegetative management objectives.
 - C. Aggressive Initial Attack - Immediate, vigorous suppression efforts employing helicopters, air tankers and hand line crews. No heavy equipment to be used and physical disturbance to be minimized. Three suppression objectives may be set. Fire control implies controlling and extinguishing the fire. Fire containment indicates the fire perimeter be established and the fire be left to burn under observation. Redirection is the partial containment in sectors which pose a more serious threat.

D. Modified Expanded Attack - Expanded fire control forces deployed when initial attack has failed and control or containment is determined as being the objective of an Uncontrolled Fire Attack Plan. No heavy equipment is to be used and physical disturbance to be minimized.

E. Full Expanded Attack - Same as modified expanded attack except that the use of heavy equipment is permitted. The District Manager is the only person who can authorize the use of heavy equipment within the wilderness area. This may only occur when a fire threatens to burn commercial timber stands outside the boundaries of the wilderness area.

Prescribed Fire

Prescribed burns may be used to achieve fire management objectives. All prescribed burns will be carried out according to plans that contain the following:

- Clearly stated objectives including fire weather windows required, intended size, target fuel groups and expected stem removal ratios.
- A burning plan showing guard locations, guard construction, natural fuel breaks, light-up patterns and control methods.
- Contingency plans to deal with possible escapes in specific sectors of the burn.
- Consideration for smoke management including prevailing wind patterns, potential drift patterns, areas of likely concentrations and inversions.
- A public information strategy.

Insects and Disease

1. Annual aerial beetle surveys will continue in the wilderness area, augmented by ground surveys when an insect attack threatens to spread to adjacent land.

2. Interim routine control measures such as fall and burn may have to be considered until the mosaic of species and age class diversity is achieved.
3. Prescribed fire may be used to decrease the risk of large infestations.
4. The Inter-Agency Agreement on Mountain Pine Beetle will be applied within the Wilderness Area.

RANGE MANAGEMENT GOALS

1. A detailed analysis of areas previously identified as being over-grazed is required prior to the development of strategies which must reverse the trend. Some of these sites may be rehabilitated through a seeding program. The problem appears to stem from inadequate herd management of horse strings and the sheer numbers of animals using the more popular accessible camp locations.

Another two options are worthy of further investigation, one being a system of permits for all horse-packers and the other requiring that processed food be packed in.

2. Although wildlife habitat and forage is in generally good or excellent condition, additional forage production may be anticipated once the fire and fire management strategies have been implemented. A program to maintain, increase or enhance forage production throughout the Height-of-The-Rockies must be developed and implemented by 1990.
3. Conflicts between user groups, especially between individual horse-packing groups or horse-packing groups and foot travellers may occur. Ways and means of reducing the occurrence of this type of conflict must be investigated and solutions developed. Horse-use rules may need to be developed and trail etiquette will be highlighted in a public information brochure.

RANGE MANAGEMENT CONCERNS, DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION

It is anticipated that the use of the Wilderness Area will increase, if for no other reason, due to the fact that the area is now a designated Provincial Forest Wilderness Area. Increased use transcribes directly into increased horse traffic. The potential for significant over-grazing and trampling of choice meadows may increase. Some trails are not suited to heavy horse traffic and can be expected to degrade to an unacceptable level, especially in wetter areas.

Increased use may result in confrontations between individual parties. Foot travellers may not appreciate encountering horse strings or being invaded by a horse-packing group at their campsite. Competition for the choice campsites where forage is abundant may occur between horse-packing parties.

Over-grazing of slide fans by horses may have a negative impact on wild grazers such as elk.

There is the increased danger of the introduction of weed species or non-native plants into the area as horse use of the wilderness becomes more popular.

Existing regulations are virtually non-enforceable especially in a wilderness setting. Even if strict regulations were in place, enforcement is unlikely. The long term solution appears to be through communication, some regulation/enforcement and the development of a sense of user pride in the protection of the wilderness values the Height-of-The-Rockies affords. If degradation continues stricter regulations, enforcement and a system of fines may be the only means of protecting the wilderness.

RANGE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Corrals will not be built unless there is no other solution to a site degradation problem.

Only processed feed will be allowed into the area.

Horse loading facilities may be built at certain key road accessed trailheads.

Proper herd management must be practiced by all horse-packing groups.

The number of horses in each group must be kept to a minimum and it may be necessary to limit the number of horses in a group.

Commercial operators are subject to the same limitations as are private horse parties.

FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT GOALS

1. The Fish and Wildlife Branch of the Ministry of Environment and Parks is responsible for the management of the fish and wildlife resources. Information regarding the fishery resource is lacking at this time, therefore cannot be discussed in detail. The current wildlife population information indicates that no significant management changes need to be introduced at this time.
2. There are guide outfitters and trappers presently active in the Height-of-The-Rockies. These commercial activities are compatible with the general wilderness management principles, as long as access is by non-motorized means. No additional licences or permits are being considered.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT CONCERNS, DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION

WILDLIFE

Wildlife is an integral part of a wilderness setting. To many, the observation of a variety of animals is a highlight of their experience. The Height-of-the-Rockies has concentrations of every big game species native to the southern Rocky Mountains. Indeed these populations were one of the primary reasons for the establishment of the area. Throughout the wilderness area there is prime habitat for elk, mule deer, goat, sheep, black bear, grizzly bear, moose and cougar. The lack of man's encroachment, and the area's proximity to other Provincial and National Parks, ensures that these habitats will remain unimpaired for many years to come.

The Fish and Wildlife Branch of the Ministry of Environment and Parks is responsible for managing the wildlife resource. Wildlife habitat is within the broad mandate of the Forest Service. Both agencies work in close association with each other to manage habitat for specific wildlife objectives.

According to the Fish and Wildlife Branch, the habitat within the Height-of-the-Rockies is in excellent condition. The maintenance of a mosaic of plant associations, seral stages and age types described in the protection section will further improve wildlife habitat. For these reasons, wildlife management for the Height-of-the-Rockies for the period of this plan will remain unchanged.

As recreation use increases in the wilderness area, pressure created by human presence may become a factor in managing the fish and wildlife resources. Use will be monitored through the recreation surveys and traditional Fish and Wildlife Branch questionnaires. If any changes in management are required they shall be implemented through access management and/or the hunting and fishing regulations.

MINERAL, PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION

MANAGEMENT GOALS

1. The Forest Service will work cooperatively with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources to establish mineral reserves (ie. reserves against claim staking) in selected areas of the Height-of-The-Rockies Wilderness Area where conditions warrant.
2. Upon advice of proposed mineral exploration, development, or reclamation projects, the Forest Service District Staff will request a meeting with the Inspector of Mines where the project is within the Wilderness Area or in close proximity to the Height-of-The-Rockies. The purpose of this meeting is to ensure that mineral, petroleum, or natural gas projects do not negatively impact the wilderness values of the Height-of-The-Rockies.
3. In the case of petroleum or natural gas geophysical projects, no prior permit, lease or drilling licence (ie. subsurface tenure) is required prior to applying for a geophysical program on vacant Crown land. At the time the applicant personally refers the program to Forest Service district staff, details of the project will be discussed and any negative impacts on the area from a wilderness management perspective will be identified. Written agreement on how the wilderness integrity will be maintained will be sought.
4. Should any mining activities require road access, they will be closed to the public. Mining companies will be required to reclaim their roads in accordance with established guidelines.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS, DISCUSSION, AND DIRECTION

According to the Forest Act, mineral, petroleum and gas exploration is an acceptable use in Provincial Forests including Wilderness Areas. The Forest Service is committed to closely monitoring mineral, petroleum and natural gas explorations to ensure that wilderness values are protected.

Any person or company holding a Free Miners Certificate may prospect for minerals, stake claims, mark claim boundaries and erect corner posts without prior permit or notification. Claims must be registered with the Gold Commissioner within 30 days. Should the claim holder wish to perform work on a claim, a Notice of Work and Reclamation Program on a Mineral Property must be received by the Inspector of Mines at least seven days before work is to commence. Outside referrals are handled by the Inspector of Mines.

Since the approval procedure for mining activities is no different between Provincial Forests and Wilderness Areas it is incumbent upon the Forest Service to scrutinize all referrals regarding the Height-of-the-Rockies. District Staff will request a meeting with the Inspector of Mines immediately upon receipt of any Notice of Work referral involving the Height-of-the-Rockies. The Forest Service will recommend that contractual conditions directed towards minimizing environmental disturbance and retaining aesthetic values be incorporated into plans. Recommendations may include clauses for helicopter access, the use of hand cut lines and restrictions on mining activities proximal to important features such as campgrounds, archaeological sites, trails and fragile ecosystems.

MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

This plan is a five year plan for the Height-of-the-Rockies. It will be subject to review in 1993. The five year recreation operational plan will be reviewed and updated annually.

The Forest Service is the agency responsible for overall management of the Height-of-the-Rockies and the implementation of the management plan. The Fish and Wildlife Branch of the Ministry of Environment and Parks retains the responsibility for the management of fisheries and wildlife in the Wilderness Area, as does the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources for mining and the Lands Branch of the Ministry of Forests and Lands for commercial tenures.

There are a number of other recreation reserves bordering Height-of-the-Rockies including Banff National Park, Peter Lougheed Provincial Park and Elk Lakes Park and Recreation Area. There is a high potential for recreation movement from Height-of-the-Rockies into these areas and vice versa. The Forest Service will be approaching managers of those respective areas to work out complementary management strategies. This will be reflected in the next review of this plan.

APPENDIX I

HEIGHT-OF-THE-ROCKIES PUBLIC QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

A questionnaire was published in several East Kootenay newspapers in late September regarding the Height-of-the-Rockies Wilderness Area, the first of its kind in B.C. to be managed by the Forest Service. The questionnaire sought public opinion on eight key issues associated with wilderness management. It was well received by the public as evidenced by the 528 completed questionnaires returned by December 18th, the cut off date.

Some trends are obvious from the responses summarized below in graph format. In general, most respondents prefer little development of any kind within the area, and would allow natural processes to continue unhindered as much as possible. The majority also preferred restrictions on motorized forms of access and recreation.

This information is one of several forms of input to be considered in the completion of a management plan for the area, to be formulated over the winter months.

APPENDIX II

HEIGHT OF THE ROCKIES WILDERNESS RECREATION PLAN SYNOPSIS

The planning, budgeting, administration and project implementation phases of the Ministry of Forests and Lands Recreation Program is divided into three activities: Recreation Management, Recreation Site and Trail Maintenance and Recreation Site and Trail Development.

Recreation Management encompasses the development of management plans, preparation of budgets, collection of inventory data, as well as overall program administration and public information initiatives. Management plans are developed in recognition of legislation, regulation, policy, and recreation management principles. Management plans and current inventory information are the basis for the determination of five year program plans, fiscal requirements and annual operational plans.

Recreation Site and Trail Maintenance provides for the maintenance or rehabilitation of areas used by recreationists so that the areas are managed in a natural state or as nearly natural as practical, particularly in wilderness settings.

Recreation Site and Trail Development provides for the development and construction of recreation-oriented facilities which are compatible with and support the basic objectives stated in the Management Plan.

FIVE YEAR RECREATION PLAN SYNOPSIS 1988 - 1993

1989 - RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Implement the Height-of-the-Rockies Wilderness Area Management Plan by:

1. Conducting an inventory of existing trails and recreation features in the Middle Fork of the White River, Forsyth Creek and in the Russell-Limestone Lakes area. The inventory in the above areas will also develop area impact assessments relative to current and potential commercial use, assess landscape management concerns and identify where new facilities or improvement to existing facilities are required.
2. Developing and printing of a brochure for this Wilderness Area.
3. Initiating a user survey for a statistical determination of levels of use in specific areas or throughout the Wilderness Area.

1989 - SITE AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Carry out required maintenance or rehabilitation by:

1. Clearing, realigning and maintaining existing trails in the Middle Fork of the White River, Connor Lakes - Forsyth Creek area and in the Maiyuk Creek - Connor Lakes area.
2. Removing garbage, establishing minimum toilet facilities and fire rings and rehabilitating sites which have been traditionally used in the past in the Middle Fork of the White River, Connor Lakes - Forsyth Creek area and in the Maiyuk Creek - Connor Lakes area.
3. Establishing information signs at the commencement of the Joffre Creek - Palliser Trail, Maiyuk - Middle Fork Trail, Forsyth - Connor Lakes Trail and at the hunter closure sign near Kotsats Creek on the Middle Fork Forest Service Road.

1989 - SITE AND TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Establish facilities such as toilets and horse corrals at the Quarrie - Forsyth Trailhead and near the hunter vehicle closure sign in the Middle Fork of the White River. These two sites are actually outside the Wilderness Area, but will serve as access points to the Wilderness.

1990 - RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Conduct a trail and features inventory of the Palliser River drainage, Queen Mary - Ralph Lake Area, Quarrie Creek drainage, and the Royal Group area.

1990 - SITE AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Carry out routine maintenance of:

1. Middle Fork, Maiyuk - Connor Lakes and Forsyth - Connor Lakes trails.
2. Dispersed Use sites established in 1988.
3. Trailhead sites at Quarrie - Forsyth trailhead and at the Mt. Forsyth site.

1990 - SITE AND TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Establish facilities such as toilets and horse corrals at the Joffre Creek Trailhead and at the Maiyuk Creek - Middle Fork junction. Commence construction of the Height-of-the-Rockies trail which will by-pass existing logging located near the Maiyuk Creek - Middle Fork confluence.

1991 - RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Complete the trail and features inventory of the Palliser River area, and conduct an inventory of the Russell Lake, Pass of the Clouds, Beatty Creek and West Lake areas.

1991 - RECREATION SITE AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Carry out routine maintenance of:

1. Middle Fork, Joffre Creek, Palliser River, and Height-of-the-Rockies trails.
2. Trailhead sites at Joffre Creek, Maiyuk - Middle Fork, Forsyth - Quarrie and Mt. Forsyth.

Undertake major trail realignment and rehabilitation works on the Queen Mary Lake trail, Pass-of-the-Clouds, Beatty Creek and West Lake areas.

Rehabilitate and improve dispersed use sites throughout the Palliser River drainage.

1991 - RECREATION SITE AND TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Continue the construction of the Height-of-the-Rockies trail and establish a dispersed use site at Sheep Camp Meadows.

1992 - RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Conduct a trails and features inventory in LeRoy Creek, Flynn Creek, Albert River - Ralph Lake area, South Kananaskis Pass and the Military Group area.

1992 - SITE AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Routine maintenance will be carried out on all established trails, dispersed use sites and trailhead sites.

Realignment and rehabilitation of the Ralph Lake Trail, West Lake Trail, LeRoy Creek Trail and South Kananaskis Trail will be completed.

Rehabilitation and improvement works will be conducted on traditional use areas near Ralph and West Lakes.

1992 - SITE AND TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Complete the construction of the Height-of-the-Rockies trail and commence construction of a foot bridge near the Joffre Creek trailhead and a footbridge on the Forsyth - Connor Lakes trail.

1993 - RECREATION MANAGEMENT

The trail and features inventory for the Wilderness Area will be completed.

1993 - SITE AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Routine maintenance will be carried out on all trails, dispersed use site, and trailhead sites. Realignment and rehabilitation of the East Fork Quarrie Creek Trail, Tipperary Lake Trail, Seeta Creek Trail and Russell Lake - North Fork Trail will be completed.

Rehabilitation and improvement works will be carried out where required in conjunction with the above-mentioned trail maintenance.

1993 - SITE AND TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

The foot bridges at Joffre Creek and on the Forsyth - Connor Lakes Trail will be completed as well as a foot bridge over the Middle Fork of the White River near its headwaters.

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